

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A connector for releasably connecting a manipulating cord to the lift cords of an architectural covering, the connector comprising:  
an inner assembly secured to the manipulating cord; and  
an outer shell releasably mounted on the inner assembly, the outer shell including at least two shell sections, each shell section secured to an individual lift cord.
2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the inner assembly includes a lower member and an upper member that is moveable relative to the lower member.
3. The connector of claim 2, wherein the inner assembly includes a resiliently compressible member disposed between the upper member and the lower member.
4. The connector of claim 2, wherein the upper member includes a tapered flange.
5. The connector of claim 4, wherein an upper portion of each shell section rests on the tapered flange when the outer shell is mounted on the inner assembly.
6. The connector of claim 1, wherein the upper portion of each shell section is configured to slide on the tapered flange, whereby outward movement of the lift cords releases the outer shell from the inner assembly.
7. The connector of claim 5, wherein the lower member includes a flange that engages each shell section when the outer shell is mounted on the inner assembly.
8. The connector of claim 1, wherein the lift cords are attached to the outer shell by knotting the lift cords.

9. The connector of claim 1, wherein the lift cords are attached to an anchoring member that engages the outer shell.

10. The connector of claim 1, wherein the inner assembly is resiliently compressible, whereby compression of the inner assembly releases the outer shell from the inner assembly.

11. An architectural covering comprising:

a manipulating cord;

at least two lift cords;

a connector that includes an inner assembly secured to the manipulating cord and an outer shell releasably mounted on the inner assembly, the outer shell including at least two shell sections, each shell section secured to one of the two lift cords.

12. The architectural covering of claim 11, wherein the inner assembly includes a lower member and an upper member that is moveable relative to the lower member.

13. The architectural covering of claim 12, wherein the inner assembly includes a resiliently compressible member disposed between the upper member and the lower member.

14. The architectural covering of claim 12, wherein the upper member includes a tapered flange.

15. The architectural covering of claim 14, wherein an upper portion of each shell section rests on the tapered flange when the outer shell is mounted on the inner assembly.

16. The architectural covering of claim 14, wherein the upper portion of each shell section is configured to slide on the tapered flange, whereby outward movement of the lift cords releases the outer shell from the inner assembly.

17. The architectural covering of claim 15, wherein the lower member includes a flange that engages a tab on each shell section when the outer shell is mounted on the inner assembly.

18. The architectural covering of claim 11, wherein the lift cords are attached to the outer shell by knotting the lift cords.

19. The architectural covering of claim 11, wherein the lift cords are attached to an anchoring member that engages the outer shell.

20. The architectural covering of claim 11, wherein the inner assembly is resiliently compressible, whereby compression of the inner assembly releases the outer shell from the inner assembly.